Vol. IX. Numb. 69.

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Letter from a Gentleman at St. Germains *to his Friend in* England, *containing Methods to ſet the Pretender on the Throne of* Great Britain. *'Twas certainly printed in* French *beyond Sea. Reaſons to think it genuine; with ſome Account of its Plan, and Inſtances how it is follow'd by ſome of our Highflying Clergy,* &c. *and particularly by Mr.* Leſley, *Dr.* Sacheverel, *&c. Which may ſerve as a Caveat to our Electors, to take care whom they chuſe for Members of Parliament, and by whoſe Influence and Advice.*

From Saturday, September 9. to Wedneſday, September 13. 1710.

Countrym. I Meet with a great many Infidels, Maſter, who will not believe that the Letter from a Gentleman at *St. Germains* to one of his Friends in *England*, containing a Memorial about Methods for ſetting the Pretender on the Throne of *Great Britain*, mention'd in our laſt, came from beyond Sea; but will needs have it to be writ here, to caſt an Odium upon the Gentlemen of the High-Church.

Obſ. You know the Proverb, *Roger*; There's none ſo blind as thoſe that will not ſee. There are ſome hundreds of the *French* Copies, printed at *Cologne*, in Town; of which I have ſeen one my ſelf, as I told you laſt day. I don't ſee why the High-Church Faction ſhould be ſo angry with the Author for drawing them to the life, any more than a Negro ſhould be at a Limner for drawing him in his native Colour and Features.

Countrym. Pray, Maſter, give me ſome account of the Book, that I may know what to ſay to my Friends concerning it.

Obſ. With all my heart, *Roger*; for I think it worth every *Britiſh* Proteſtant's reading. The Letter is dated from *St. Germains* the 12th of *January* laſt, and was found, as the *Cologne* Publiſher tells us, in the Portmanteau of an *Iriſh* Gentleman who died at *Douay*. After the taking of that Town, a conſiderable Officer of the Confederate Army coming to lodg in the ſame Chamber where the Portmanteau lay, he deſir'd his Landlord to remove it; upon which he told him 'twas none of his, and that an *Iriſh* Gentleman the Owner, who came from *Paris*, being dead, he kept it there till it ſhould be call'd for. The Confederate Officer hearing this, and ſome other Circumſtances from his Landlord, thought fit to open it; and finding, among other things, this Letter with ſeveral other *French* and *Engliſh* Papers in it, he communicated them to his Superiors, and obtain'd leave to take a Copy of this Letter, on condition of leaving out Names and certain Paſſages according to direction: and from him the *Cologne* Publiſher had it.

Countrym. I thank you, Maſter; ſo far the Story tells well enough: but might it not have been writ on purpoſe by ſome of the Whigs beyond Sea, and uſher'd into the World with that Advertiſement, deſignedly to blacken the High-Church Party?

Obſ. They who make ſuch an Objection, *Roger*, ſpin the thred a great deal too fine. For, 1. Whoever writ the Paper, or at leaſt dictated the Matter, muſt have been a Subject or Subjects of *Great Britain*, as the Author owns himſelf to be; becauſe no Foreigner could poſſibly be ſo well acquainted with our paſt Hiſtory and preſent State of Affairs, as will appear upon peruſal. 2. *Roger*, the Author or Authors muſt needs have been or are of the Communion of the Church of *Rome*, or ſtrongly inclin'd to an Accommodation with her; for no other could write with that Air of Sincerity and Zeal for Popery, tho they had even deſign'd it, as will appear by the Cloſe of this Pamphlet, where the Arguments brought for the deciſive Power of the Church in Controverſies of Faith, are much above the Capacity of vulgar Papiſts, and far more above that of common Proteſtants, who know nothing of that way of arguing: So that if it be writ by a profeſs'd Papiſt, as the Author owns himſelf to be, or by a High-Church Proteſtant of *Dodwell*'s or *Leſley*'s Stamp, 'tis all one; for 'tis plain, the Deſign of the Paper is to reconcile the People of this Iſland to a *French* Scheme of Religion and Government, and to carry on the Intereſt of *St. Germains*. 3. The Matters of Fact charg'd upon the High-Church Party, are undoubtedly true. So that all that can be queſtion'd, is, Whether they be juſtly chargeable with the ſame Deſigns by theſe Facts that the Author aſcribes to them. And here, *Roger*, if we carefully advert to the Letter, there can be no doubt that our Leading Nonjurors and *Defacto*-Men muſt neceſſarily by their Doctrines and Practices intend the Settlement of the Pretender upon the Throne of *Great Britain*, and an Accommodation with *Rome*: but for others, our Author is ſo ingenuous as to confeſs the Secret muſt be carefully conceal'd from them; that they muſt be drawn into the Meaſures by other Topicks; and that what concerns Religion, and a Reunion betwixt the two Churches, muſt be carefully hid, and communicated to none but thoſe whom the *St. Germains* Correſpondent is well aſſur'd of, as appears by the laſt Page.

Countrym. Pray, Maſter, give me an account of the Methods enjoin'd by that Paper for ſetting the Pretender on the Throne; for then I and my Country Neighbours ſhall be better able to judg, whether they be follow'd by our High-Church Party, and take our Views accordingly at next Elections.

Obſ. The firſt is, *Roger*, *p.* 11. 'To ſerve themſelves dextrouſly of one Party to deſtroy another, to foment the Hatred and Animoſities that are betwixt them, and to furniſh them with Methods to avenge themſelves on one another by Turns.' The ſecond is *pag.* 14. 'To blacken the Memory of King *William*, and to alledg that nothing but his Ambition and Deſire of a Crown, and to augment the Power of the *Dutch*, our mortal Enemies, induc'd him to invade *England*, tho he cover'd it with the falſe Pretexts of Religion and Liberty.' Thirdly, *pag.* 15. 'That thoſe who were the chief Inſtruments of the Revolution

'volution in *England*, and are ſtill its moſt violent 'Patrons, being moſt of them Church-of-*England*-'men by Profeſſion, which gains them admittance 'into Parliaments and the chief Poſts of the State, 'muſt be repreſented as Republicans, Enemies to 'Royal Authority and Monarchy, Traitors to 'their Country, and Men of no Religion; who 'only profeſs to be of the Church of *England* for 'the ſake of their Intereſt, but are ſecretly con-'ſpiring her Ruin. When once you can poſſeſs 'the People with thoſe Maxims, the Reſtoration 'of our Prince (*ſays the Author*) is not far off, 'for thoſe Low Churchmen are almoſt the only 'and chief Obſtacle in our way at preſent.' Fourthly, *pag.* 15, 16. Since the Nonconformiſts and Low 'Churchmen mutually ſupport one another, the 'former muſt be gain'd by Careſſes and Civilities, 'of which they are ſo much the more ſenſible, be-'cauſe the High Churchmen commonly treat them 'with Haughtineſs and Contempt; yet they have 'oftner than once been gain'd to vote at Elections 'for ſuch as would willingly have voted their Ex-'termination in the Houſe; therefore 'tis not im-'poſſible to break them off from their great Pa-'trons.'

Countrym. Bleſs me, Maſter, theſe are Jeſuitical Politicks indeed, to divide us in order to deſtroy us. I hope it will be a Caveat for the Low Churchmen and Diſſenters, to beware how they ſeparate at Elections, or in any other publick Concernments, ſince they may perceive by this, that the Papiſts and High-Church Faction are united in purſuing the Plan of *St. Germains* to deſtroy them both. But pray go on.

Obſ. I hope there's no fear of that, *Roger*; but if they do, they muſt fall unpity'd. I proceed, *pag.* 17, 18, 19. our Author ſays, 'That the Non-'conformiſts have obtain'd an Act of Parlia-'ment, which eſtabliſhes their Sects for ever, ſets 'them on an equal foot with the Church of *England*, 'and has extraordinarily increas'd their Numbers. 'Your Miniſters are not ignorant of this, but 'make bitter Complaints of it; therefore you 'muſt keep up their Reſentments, increaſe their 'Jealouſy, promiſe to reſtore them to their an-'tient Luſtre, and to put them in a condition to 'reduce their Enemies. You muſt maintain with 'them, that the Church of *England* is in immi-'nent Danger, and on the Brink of Ruin, not 'only from the Nonconformiſts, but from the Low 'Churchmen and Latitudinarians——But above 'all you muſt inſiſt upon this, that the Low Church-'men do all they can to keep the Clergy in Ser-'vitude, and to bring them lower than they are 'at preſent.'

Countrym. How exactly have our *Sacheverels*, and others, who rail'd againſt the Diſſenters and Low Churchmen, and attack'd the Queen's Supremacy, and the Power of the Upper Houſe of Convocation, purſu'd this Plan, Maſter? The thing ſpeaks of it ſelf, and needs no further Comment; I hope the Peoples Eyes will be open'd at laſt, to ſee whither thoſe Men are leading them: But pray go on.

Obſ. In that ſame place, *Roger*, the Author ſays, 'That 'twould be proper dextrouſly to inſinuate, 'that the Houſe of *Hanover* being bred up in Prin-'ciples which come very near thoſe of the Preſ-'byterians, or rather are at bottom the ſame, 'ſince part of the Lutherans have no Biſhops, and 'where they have any, they are only the ſha-'dows of Biſhops, who have no regard to a ſuc-'ceſſive and uninterrupted Ordination, upon which 'your Clergy value themſelves ſo much; you muſt 'inſinuate that Princes, educated in that manner, 'may very probably make Alterations in the 'Church of *England*, either by eſtabliſhing Preſ-'bytery, or endeavouring a Comprehenſion, which 'will be no leſs pernicious.'

Countrym. Mr. *Leſley* and ſome of our other High-Churchmen have follow'd this Plan exactly a conſiderable while, Maſter. In his *Rehearſals* he attack'd Dr. *Drake*, and others of that ſort of High-Churchmen, for falling in with the Motion to invite over the Electreſs Dowager of *Hanover*. He exclaim'd againſt Presbyterian *Lutherans*, and in his lying ſcandalous Libel, publiſh'd lately, call'd *The Good Old Cauſe further diſcuſs'd*, writes expreſly againſt calling over the Elector, and putting him in ſome ſuch Poſt under her Majeſty, as may ſecure the Proteſtant Succeſſion; and refers to his *Rehearſals*, Vol. I. Numb. 11, 65, 69, 71. for Arguments againſt calling over any of the Family. *P.* 27. he has a villanous Inſinuation, as if the Elector would put her Majeſty under his *German* Guards, and asks a malicious Queſtion, *Who would gain moſt by her Death?* To this, Maſter, if we add the dubious Expreſſions relating to the Succeſſion, in Addreſſes where ſome of our Clergymen have been principally concern'd, we have reaſon to think that more than two or three of them are engag'd in the *St. Germains* Plan, for all their pretended Zeal to the Houſe of *Hanover*; ſince Mr. *Leſley* himſelf owns that the Houſe of *Hanover* has a Right, but it muſt be in its place, *pag.* 26. and that every body knows muſt not be till the Lines of *St. Germains* and *Orleance* are out, according to him and all the reſt who are for an Indefeaſible Hereditary Succeſſion. Then as to the *St. Germains* Direction concerning the Danger of the Church, and the Miſchiefs of a Comprehenſion, it muſt be own'd by all Men who are not reſolv'd to ſhut their Eyes againſt Demonſtration, that *Sacheverel* and others have follow'd it exactly. But we muſt break off now, Maſter, till another time, when I ſhall be glad to hear your further Account of the Letter from *St. Germains*.

ADVERTISEMENT.

A Treatiſe de Jure Divino; aſſerting, That the Title of the Houſe of Hanover to the contingent Succeſſion of the Britiſh Monarchy, is a Title Hereditary, and of Divine Inſtitution. Written by Mr. Aſgill. 2d Edition.

** A New Catechiſm, with Dr. Hicks's Thirty Nine Articles. With a Preface, relating to the true Intereſt of Great Britain, both in Church and State. The Third Edition Enlarg'd. Sold by S. Popping in Paternoſter-Row.

*** A Letter to Mr. *B*—— a *North Wiltſhire* Clergyman, relating to an Addreſs from that Archdeaconry to the Queen: Wherein a Character is given of the Biſhop of *Sarum*, and an Account of the Clergy's Behaviour towards him. Price 2 *d.*

[] The Earl of *Clarendon*'s Opinion of the Diſſolution of the Parliament, which met in *April*, 1640. Price 1 *d.*

*** A Poem to the Earl of *Godolphin*. By Dr. *G—h.* All Sold by *S. Popping*, and *T. Harriſon* at the *Exchange* in *Cornhil*.

A Philoſophical Commentary on the Words of the Goſpel, Luke 14. 23. *Compel them to come in, that my Houſe may be full.* In Four Parts. 1. Containing a Refutation of the Literal Senſe of this Paſſage. 2. An Anſwer to all Objections. 3. Remarks on thoſe Letters of *St. Auſtin*, which are uſually alledg'd for the compelling of Hereticks, and particularly to juſtify the late Perſecution in *France*. 4. A Supplement, proving, That Hereticks have as much Right to perſecute the Orthodox, as the Orthodox them. Tranſlated from the *French* of Mr. *Bayle*, Author of the Great *Critical and Hiſtorical Dictionary*. In two Volumes. Sold by *J. Morphew*.

LONDON Printed, and Sold by S. Popping at the *Raven* in *Pater-noſter-Row*. 1710.